

WEED BEACH PARK MASTER PLAN

General Information

This general information sheet was created by the Darien Weed Beach Building Committee to inform the public about the Master Plan for Weed Beach. Come join the excitement.

Vision

Update park facilities to enhance the shoreline experience for the entire Darien community.

History

In 1953, the town purchased the Weed Beach property from the Weed family to create a shoreline park for the Darien community. In 1976, additional land was purchased to expand the Park. On June 10, 1985, the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) legally dedicated the land.

In 1990, the bathhouse building was renovated and a new gatehouse was installed in 2002.

In July 2004, the Parks and Recreation Commission formed a subcommittee to study Weed Beach Park. Later in 2004, the Parks and Recreation Department received \$25,000 to fund a Master Plan for the Park.

In early 2005, members of the subcommittee, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Planning and Zoning Department interviewed potential designers to create a Master Plan for the Park.

In May 2005, the Town of Darien Parks and Recreation Commission hired the joint team of Stearns & Wheler, LLC and Von Ohlsen Design Associates to prepare a Master Plan for Weed Beach Park.

In 2006, the team and the Parks and Recreation Department solicited information from the public at large and stakeholders at a series of public meetings. Information for the plan was gathered via emails from the public, as well as suggestions given to the Parks and Recreation Department, its Commission and various other agencies throughout the Town.

In February 2006, several concepts for the Master Plan were presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration. These concepts were presented at a regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission.

In June 2006, a final Master Plan was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Board of Selectmen approved the plan in concept in July of 2006. A presentation of the plan was made to the Board of Finance following Board of Selectmen approval also in July of 2006. This Master Plan is the plan the Weed Beach Building Committee is charged with developing.

In January 2007, The Weed Beach Building Committee (WBBC) was established and its members were selected from the Board of Selectman, Board of Finance, Parks & Recreation Commission, the RTM, and the public at large.

In January 2007, after approval by the Board of Selectman, the Board of Finance appropriated \$255,000 for the development of the Weed Beach Master Plan. On March 19, 2007, the RTM approved the appropriation.

In July 2007, the WBBC hired Stearns & Wheler, LLC (S&W), Von Ohlsen Design Associates, and Neil Hauck Architects for the schematic and design development phase. Upon successful completion of that phase, and the subsequent town approvals and appropriations, S&W will develop detailed construction drawings and specifications.

Going forward

If you would like more information about the Weed Beach Master Plan and the progress to-date please visit the WBBC webpage located on the Town of Darien's website at www.darienct.gov/officials/wbbc/.

The Parks and Recreation Commission and WBBC members are excited about this wonderful project set to enhance one of the Town's most treasured parks. Please feel free to come to our meetings, learn where we are in the project's development and hear what we are discussing. We are sure that you will get excited too. Come join us!

Please feel free to contact the Darien Parks & Recreation Department, the Parks & Recreation Commission or the Weed Beach Building Committee with your questions or comments.

Send an email to park&recreation@darienct.gov Darien Parks & Recreation Department

Jane Branigan	Chairman	Darien Parks & Recreation Commission
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Susan Graham		
Merrie Hawley		
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Peter Hovell	Chairman	Weed Beach Building Committee
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David Bayne		
Martha Wright		

Linda Santarella Alternate Member

Dated: November 29, 2007

